

with the reporting requirements of the securities laws. This is a source of significant private benefit.

But the franchise is conditional. It comes in return for the CPA's assumption of a public duty and obligation. As a unanimous Supreme Court noted nearly 20 years ago:

In certifying the public reports that collectively depict a corporation's financial status, the independent auditor assumes a public responsibility. . . . [That auditor] owes ultimate allegiance to the corporation's creditors and stockholders, as well as to the investing public. This "public watchdog" function demands that the accountant maintain total independence from the client at all times and requires complete fidelity to the public trust.

We must cut the chord between the audit and the consulting services which by their very nature undermine the independence of the audit. We must break this culture that exists, and to do that we need a bright line. In my view granting broad exemption authority to the Oversight Board or the SEC to permit these non-audit services would undermine the separation the conference report is intended to establish.

I wanted to underscore the fact that there was a very reasoned, intense discussion of these issues. There is reason on both sides. I thought the Senator made a very strong statement. I wanted to give the counterstatement here.

I share Senator DODD's view about this exchange of ideas and its importance to the functioning of this institution. The Senator from Texas has certainly made an important contribution in that regard.

I wish to take a moment to recognize the terrific work of the staff. Senator GRAMM referred to Wayne Abernathy and Linda Lord, and of course Mike Thompson and Katherine McGuire of Senator ENZI's staff; Laura Ayoud of the legislative counsel who worked day and night to put this thing in legislative language; the staff of the Banking Committee led by Steve Harris, Dean Shahinian, Steve Kroll, Lynsey Graham, Vincent Meehan, Sarah Kline, Judy Keenan, Jesse Jacobs, Craig Davis, Marty Gruenberg, Gary Gensler, and, as I said, all led so ably by Steve Harris.

We had the very able staff of the Senators on the committee: Alex Sternhell, Naomi Camper, Jon Berger, Jimmy Williams, Catherine Cruz Wojtasik, Leslie Wooley, Margaret Simmons, Matt Young, Roger Hollingsworth, and Matt Pippin.

I thank again all my colleagues who participated. I think I recognized most of them in the course of the day, and I want to say just a word about Chairman OXLEY and Congressman LAFALCE on the House side, who made it possible for us to work through this conference and with whom we have worked so cooperatively on so many issues that have come before our committee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time of the Senator has expired. Who yields time?

Mr. SARBANES. How much time is remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland is without time. There are 12 minutes for the Senator from Texas.

Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, we have reached the hour that we set for a vote. I am ready to yield back the 12 minutes and have the vote proceed.

I reiterate that this is a bill that was fraught with danger in the environment that we were in. Literally anything could have passed. I think, by a combination of good work and some good fortune, that has not been the case. We have a vehicle before us that I think will be complicated. It will be difficult to implement.

I think we will probably change it in the future. But I think in terms of our ability to prosper under the bill, and for the economy to survive not only the illness but the prescription of the doctor in this case, I think it is doable.

I yield the remainder of our time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the conference report.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. NICKLES. I announce that the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. HELMS) is necessarily absent.

I further announce that if present and voting the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. HELMS) would vote "yea."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 99, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 192 Leg.]

YEAS—99

|           |            |             |
|-----------|------------|-------------|
| Akaka     | Dorgan     | Lugar       |
| Allard    | Dubin      | McCain      |
| Allen     | Edwards    | McConnell   |
| Baucus    | Ensign     | Mikulski    |
| Bayh      | Enzi       | Miller      |
| Bennett   | Feingold   | Murkowski   |
| Biden     | Feinstein  | Murray      |
| Bingaman  | Fitzgerald | Nelson (FL) |
| Bond      | Frist      | Nelson (NE) |
| Boxer     | Graham     | Nickles     |
| Breaux    | Gramm      | Reed        |
| Brownback | Grassley   | Reid        |
| Bunning   | Gregg      | Roberts     |
| Burns     | Hagel      | Rockefeller |
| Byrd      | Harkin     | Santorum    |
| Campbell  | Hatch      | Sarbanes    |
| Cantwell  | Hollings   | Schumer     |
| Carnahan  | Hutchinson | Sessions    |
| Carper    | Hutchison  | Shelby      |
| Chafee    | Inhofe     | Smith (NH)  |
| Cleland   | Inouye     | Smith (OR)  |
| Clinton   | Jeffords   | Snowe       |
| Cochran   | Johnson    | Specter     |
| Collins   | Kennedy    | Stabenow    |
| Conrad    | Kerry      | Stevens     |
| Corzine   | Kohl       | Thomas      |
| Craig     | Kyl        | Thompson    |
| Crapo     | Landrieu   | Thurmond    |
| Daschle   | Leahy      | Torricelli  |
| Dayton    | Levin      | Voinovich   |
| DeWine    | Lieberman  | Warner      |
| Dodd      | Lincoln    | Weillstone  |
| Domenici  | Lott       | Wyden       |

NOT VOTING—1

Helms

The conference report was agreed to. Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. DASCHLE. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DAYTON). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CANTWELL). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that immediately after the cloture vote on the nomination of Julia Smith Gibbons, all time postcloture be considered used, and that on Monday, July 29, at 5:30 p.m., the Senate proceed to executive session to vote on the nomination of Julia Smith Gibbons, to be a U.S. circuit judge; that upon confirmation, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and that the Senate return to legislative session; further, that on Friday, July 26, immediately following the cloture vote on the nomination, the Senate return to legislative session and resume consideration of S. 812; that Senator GREGG or his designee be recognized to offer a second-degree amendment; that during Friday's session, there be up to 3 hours for debate with respect to the amendment, with the time equally divided and controlled between Senators KENNEDY and GREGG or their designees; and that whenever the Senate resumes consideration of S. 812, the Gregg or designee amendment remain debatable.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Madam President, we have spent considerable time this evening in a quorum call, but in spite of that, we have had a very productive legislative day. We have passed the conference report on corporate governance; the Appropriations Committee this afternoon reported the final four bills out of the